
FIRE FACT NO. 045 CHECKLIST(s): 99
TITLE: REQUIREMENTS FOR SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
CHECKLIST ITEM(s): 99-16, 99-17, 99-18
REFERENCE(s): 91-101/31-1.3.6
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Purpose

- To help ensure an appropriate level of life safety in certain occupancies by clarifying requirements for design, installation, inspection, and maintenance of automatic fire sprinkler systems.
- To reduce confusion by communicating system design, installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance expectations therefore enhancing efficient management of state and local resources as well as improving fire protection and life safety for the citizens of Kansas.
- To help ensure the parties responsible for the design, installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance of automatic fire sprinkler systems are doing so in a satisfactory manner. *It is the intent of the Kansas State Fire Marshal to elevate the quality of practice of all who deal with suppression systems.*

Summary

This Fire Fact is intended to clarify the Kansas State Fire Marshal Office's (KSFMO) position concerning the minimum (i.e. required and expected) design, plan submittal, installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements for automatic fire sprinkler systems. Guidance is provided for new system installations and work concerning existing systems.

Background

The KSFMO is required by K.S.A 31-133 to adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosions.

In addition, the KSFMO is required to act as the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in specific occupancies. Resources are dedicated to the "priority" facilities having the most vulnerable occupants. They are:

- Educational, including private schools, pre-schools, daycare, child care centers, and state institutions including regents universities.
- Health care, including hospitals, "adult care facilities", nursing homes, ambulatory care centers, and residential board and care facilities.
- Correction and detention.



Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

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The KSFMO has adopted via regulation, the following codes and standards for the purpose of fulfilling KSA 31-133 and ensuring a satisfactory level of fire protection and life safety.

- UBC, 1997
- UFC, 1997
- NFPA 13, through UBC/UFC

Later editions of the above codes may be approved for use by the KSFMO.

Only those individuals properly trained, educated and experienced shall participate in work on these systems.

Existing systems shall be maintained according to the applicable codes and standards listed above.

By adopting these minimum standards, the KSFMO is requiring a minimum level of protection be provided through system design, installation, inspection, and maintenance.

Plans for automatic fire sprinkler systems in “priority” facilities shall be submitted to the KSFMO for approval. The submitted plans shall comply with standards set forth by the KSFMO and shall include; system layout diagrams, equipment cut sheets, hydraulic calculations. (See 1997 UBC Standard 9-1 section 6-1). Approval of the completed installation shall require submittal of “Contractors Material And Test Certificate for Aboveground Piping”.

The design, installation, modification, inspection, and maintenance of fire sprinkler systems shall comply with all requirements of the applicable nationally promulgated codes and standards, regardless of whether or not the KSFMO required a plan or whether or not plan approval was given by any jurisdiction, including the KSFMO.

Currently, there are no mandatory statewide qualifications for the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems. Every new system and modified system are expected to be reviewed or under the supervision of either a Kansas licensed engineer with knowledge in automatic fire sprinkler systems or an individual holding certification from independent testing agencies such as NICET.

Application

This policy applies to the following facilities and situations:

- New system installations.
- Existing system additions, alterations, and other changes.
- Other non-priority occupancies will be included as appropriate.